

GP 3732

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

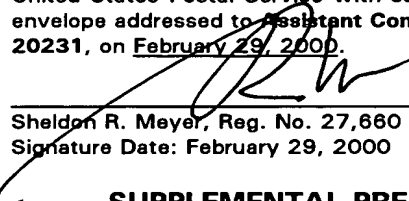
In re Application)
Inventor(s): James F. Zucherman, et al.)
SC/Serial No.: 09/473,173)
Filed: December 28, 1999)
Title: SPINE DISTRACTION IMPLANT)

PATENT APPLICATION



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HHC

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 29, 2000.



(Attorney Signature)
Sheldon R. Meyer, Reg. No. 27,660
Signature Date: February 29, 2000

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SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

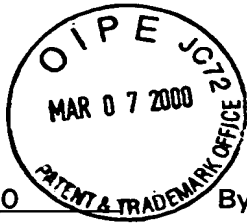
Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above case, please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, under the section entitled "Cross-Reference to Related Application", please delete Lines 10-15 and insert therefor the following:

5 ~~This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application~~
now U.S. Pat. No. 6,048,342
~~No. 09/179,570, filed on October 27, 1998, and entitled~~
SPINE DISTRACTION IMPLANT, which is a continuation-in-
part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/175,645, filed on
now U.S. Pat. No. 6,068,630
October 20, 1998, and entitled ~~SPINE DISTRACTION~~
IMPLANT, which is a continuation-in-part of *U.S. Patent Application No. 08/958,281, filed*
~~U.S. Patent No. 5,860,977 issued on January 19, 1999 and entitled SPINE~~
~~DISTRACTION IMPLANT AND METHOD, which is a~~
U.S. Patent Application No. 08/778,093, filed January 2, 1997, now
~~continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 5,836,948 issued on~~
~~November 17, 1998 and entitled SPINE DISTRACTION~~
15 ~~IMPLANT AND METHOD.~~

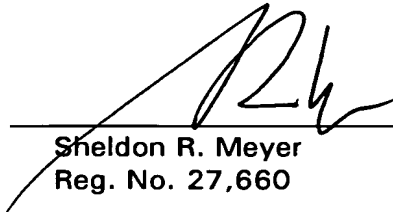
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.



Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 29, 2000

By: _____


Sheldon R. Meyer
Reg. No. 27,660

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